



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

Preliminary Report	Fatality	3/10/16
--------------------	----------	---------

1. Victim: Malani Contreras – 16-month-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 9/4/15

3. Date of fatality: 9/4/15

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 2/17/16

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Peoria, AZ

6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:

Brenda Ramirez – age 21 – Peoria, AZ

7. Circumstances of the fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On September 4, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the drowning of Malani Contreras. Malani was in the bathtub with her sibling when their mother, Brenda Ramirez, left them unsupervised for a period of time. The Department found that Brenda Ramirez neglected Malani when she left her in the bathtub unsupervised and Malani drowned.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS has received one prior report involving mother, Brenda Ramirez and child, Malani Contreras:

On May 6, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to, Malani Contreras, by her mother, Brenda Ramirez when the child was born substance exposed to marijuana. The allegation was substantiated. The investigation assessed the child to be safe. The family was provided with information on available community services and the case was closed.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Peoria Police Department.

10. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was placed with a relative.

11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

The Department is providing services to the family.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director